

## House Resolution 428

By: Representatives Hill of the 21<sup>st</sup>, Scheid of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Byrd of the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Setzler of the 35<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Study Committee on Tobacco Tax Evasion; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, there is a growing problem in Georgia with untaxed cigars and smokeless  
3 tobacco being brought into the state; and

4 WHEREAS, an infrastructure exists which is importing cigars from Florida, which has no  
5 tax on cigars; and

6 WHEREAS, legitimate Georgia wholesalers are losing millions of dollars in sales to such  
7 operations, causing a loss of jobs in this state; and

8 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia is losing tobacco tax revenue because the tax is not being  
9 paid as required on products being imported into this state; and

10 WHEREAS, this loss has increased following the tax increase on cigars and the imposition  
11 of the tax on smokeless tobacco; and

12 WHEREAS, current policy and procedure makes the identification of imported products  
13 difficult to spot since, unlike cigarettes, neither cigars nor smokeless tobacco products are  
14 stamped.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
16 there is created the House Study Committee on Tobacco Tax Evasion to be composed of not  
17 more than six members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint not more  
18 than six members of the House of Representatives as members of the committee and shall  
19 designate one of such members as chairperson. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the  
20 committee.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,  
2 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions  
3 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may  
4 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or  
5 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and  
6 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee  
7 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of  
8 Georgia Annotated. All funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall  
9 come from funds appropriated to the House of Representatives. The expenses and  
10 allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any member of the  
11 committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized. In the event the  
12 committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for  
13 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 31, 2006. The  
14 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.